



Bogotá, Colombia

## **MEET LAIS Graduate Student affiliate Arielle Concilio**

**What are you currently researching and what keeps you motivated?**

I am a first year PhD student in Feminist Studies, researching the history of LGBT movements and the radical left in Latin America. More specifically, I am interested in the political economy of political violence in Colombia (in the context of the civil conflict) in relation to violence against LGBT people in the region. Though forced disappearances are commonly associated with the dictatorships of Argentina and Chile, Colombia's disappeared, (which have included trade unionists, environmentalists, religious minorities, and Afro-Colombian and indigenous people in rural parts of the country, among others) outnumber both. Why have they received so little attention, and how can we understand the near-complete annihilation of the radical left through forced disappearances and open



murders in relation to the disappearances of and violence against queer and trans people in the continent as a whole?

In examining these questions, I hope to look beyond the narrative of revolutionary socialism as being fundamentally at odds with LGBT struggles.

LGBTQ people have always been at the forefront of anti-capitalist struggle, and many LGBT movements in the region have their origins in revolutionary politics. These struggles, as well as the exploitation, misery, and destruction that capitalism mercilessly guarantees us, continuously motivate me everyday in the struggle for socialism.

## **What do you hope to achieve with your research?**

As a revolutionary socialist and a queer person with Latin American roots, I hope to recover a materialist history of revolutionary LGBT struggle that Stalinism and postmodernism have distorted. Following the Russian Revolution, the Bolsheviks were the first to decriminalize homosexuality; in the USSR prior to the authoritarianism under Stalin, same sex marriages were performed and transmen served openly in the Red Army. Yet these facts are often erased in accounts when only discussing Stalinism. Many LGBT people in the U.S. have been taught that socialism and radical leftist spaces are not for us, that they are fundamentally homo- and transphobic. But what we are not taught is that homophobia and transphobia are bourgeois ideologies designed to divide the working class, to maintain the nuclear family as the reproductive unit, and thereby maintain the power of the capitalist class. Moreover, postmodern theories that pose the working class in opposition to LGBT people are fundamentally false. LGBT people are also workers. Workers' rights are LGBT rights and LGBT rights are workers' rights. With this work, I hope to inspire more working class, LGBTQIA\*, People of Color, and other oppressed groups to take up the struggle for socialism.

## **What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?**

I write, translate, and edit for the internationalist, socialist media project called Left Voice <http://www.leftvoice.org/>, a sister organization of the online news site La Izquierda Diario <http://www.laizquierdadiario.com/>, the official publication of the PTS (the Party of Socialist Workers) in Argentina, which is part of the Fracción Trotskyista (Trotskyist Fraction). Last month in the Argentine elections, in the midst of a strengthening of the right wing, we witnessed 1.2 million people or 5% of the total population vote for the anti-capitalist, Frente de Izquierda y los Trabajadores (Left and Workers' Front), including nearly 20% of the vote in the province of Jujuy for our candidate, Alejandro Vilca, a long-time sanitation worker. These historic elections show us the need and ability of the political struggle for class independence and that the struggle of the working class must be universal. We in Left Voice as workers, students and militants call for a revolutionary party led by the working class and oppressed people to end capitalist exploitation and oppression. In Left Voice we are actively seeking contributors, so if you are interested, please contact me to get involved, and please check out our Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/LeftVoice.org/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/LeftVoice.org/?ref=br_rs)! ¡La clase obrera es una y sin fronteras!

ON - CAMPUS EVENTS

UC SANTA BARBARA  
department  
of anthropology

GRADUATE  
COLLOQUIUM

NOV/29/17 Wednesday  
11:45-12:45pm  
HSSB 2001A

Magda Maria Guilhermino  
Associate Professor at The Federal  
University of Rio Grande do Norte,  
BRAZIL

Sustainable Family Farms Development:  
Soil Conservation and Environment, Mitigation  
of Global Warming and Policies

Is It possible to recover it?  
How much money is needed?  
How many generations are needed??  
What is the real price of all this destruction?  
Is the whole world suffering from these actions?  
Does it matter for us?

Desertification means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and it is a global crisis that affects many countries in the world, not only the poor ones but also the developing and rich ones. Desertification is produced by a combination of climate and our own mistakes, ignorance and actions. It is triggered mainly by the overuse of land and unsustainable agricultural practices which lead to a loss of natural vegetation and healthy soil. The United Nations show that every year about 6 million hectares of land become unproductive. However, we can mitigate this process with practical solutions and political will. This presentation is about a multidisciplinary team who has worked with family farmers with agro-ecological actions to prevent erosion in order to recover Caatinga biome in order to attenuate desertification process. Also, this collaborative work has led to a proposal of policies for governments to help family farmers to keep these activities in order, ultimately, to mitigate climate changes.

MAGDA MARIA  
GUILHERMINO  
NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>  
11:45 – 12:45pm  
HSSB 2001A

***Plastic China, Plastic Chain: An Inconvenient Truth About Recycling by Inez Xingyue Zhou***

***Tuesday, November 14<sup>TH</sup> 4-6pm McCune 6020 HSSB***

Until the Chinese government’s new trade policy on waste importation this year, the environmental and practical impact of the global waste trade has been largely absent from US scientific and theoretical studies on waste. These new policies, however, are predicted to have a catastrophic impact on the American scrap recycling industry and have therefore ignited a conversation. This talk uses the lens of the critically acclaimed yet domestically banned documentary *Plastic China* (2016) by Jiuliang Wang to investigate both industrial statistics and out-of-sight practices of plastic scrap recycling. It is only when the “foreign” part of the story is told that we can rethink “recycling,” which is itself a controversial packaging concept of consumer culture. The global fluidity of waste engages and enriches theories about plasticity, plastic-organism contact, environmental justice, political economy, and documentary intervention, as well as intimately connects to our everyday lives.



Sociology Department  
Colloquium  
Wednesday, November 15  
at 12pm  
SSMS Room 3017

"Racial/Ethnic  
Characteristics and  
Intergenerational Social  
Mobility in Mexico: Evidence  
from the MMSI Survey"  
By: Dr. Patricio Solis

Xicana Indigenous Perspectives on Art Practice: Cuento, Codex y Cuerpo



Artivists Cherríe Moraga (Professor of English at UCSB) and Celia Herrera Rodríguez (Professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley), explore indigenous conceptualizations of art and literary expression from the point of view of Xicanas. The Indigenous codex is highlighted in their presentation, the medium par excellence through which word and image is artistically and beautifully rendered to communicate with the world around them and beyond.

NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30 pm  
@MCC Theatre



Breathin': The Eddie Zheng Story

@MCC Theatre November 15<sup>th</sup> 6-7 pm

This is a documentary about a Chinese immigrant who became the youngest prisoner at San Quentin State Prison at the age of 18. While in prison, he was sent to solitary confinement for nearly a year. Despite being released from immigration custody in 2007, Eddy awaits a final court decision in deportation hearings. With the looming possibility of deportation, Eddy must negotiate what it means to "live freely"—attempting to rebuild a family, reconcile with his victims, and make a lasting change in society at large. Live Q&A with Director/Producer and Eddy to follow the screening. 58 min.



## Ten Fe: Sage, Stage and Artist Bills With Felicia 'Fe' Montes

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

@ MCC November 16th

A Xicana Indigena platica and performance journey with and by Felicia 'Fe' Montes from Red Diaper Baby to Holistic Artist Brujx. From the page to the stage, academy to abuelita knowledge, her ways to hierbaes. A performance prayer braiding poetry, floetry, flor y canto and spiritual ARTivism. Join Felicia Montes, founding director of Mujeres de Maiz, for an evening of Spoken Word at 7:30 PM at El Centro, 629 Coronel Place, Santa Barbara. As parking is limited, carpool and public transportation is encouraged. Fe is hosting a creative writing workshop earlier in the day, details on back of calendar.

## OFF-CAMPUS EVENTS

**molaa** ■ ■  
MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART



**WHEN:**

November 17, 2017

**WHERE:** MOOLA Museum Galleries

**MORE INFO.**

562.437.1689

Master the traditional high energy dance styles of Brazilian Samba with instructor Julie Simon. She'll guide you through a series of steps focusing on techniques from Rio-style Samba to African based Samba-Reggae. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing and remember to bring water.

## Film: The Girl from Mexico

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1 pm | Tue, November 14 & 15 2017



1939, 71 minutes | Directed by Leslie Goodwins; written by Lionel Houser and Joseph Fields; with Lupe Velez, Donald Woods, Leon Errol, Linda Hayes, Donald MacBride, Edward Raquello, Elisabeth Risdon, Ward Bond

An ad man tours Mexico trying to cast a new radio show.

In conjunction with the ongoing Tuesday Matinees film series.

LACMA | Bing Theater

\$2 members, seniors (65+), and children (17 & under); \$4 general public

Note: Tickets can be purchased at LACMA's on-site Ticket Offices.

## Tour: In Focus (20 min)

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1:30 pm | Sat, November 18, 2017



Explore several related artworks on this 20-minute tour. Discover new connections in this exploration of the diversity of LACMA's collection.

LACMA

Free, with general admission

Note: This tour meets near the Hammer Building Ticket Office

## Latest Latin American Studies Journals



Journal of Politics in  
Latin America



**Volume 9: Issue 2**

**November 2017**

**Some of the articles in this issue include:**

**The Limits of Material Benefits: Remittances and Pro-Americanism in Mexico**

**By: Covadonga Meseguer, Pascal Jaupart, Javier Aparicio**

**Leftist Politics and the Limits of Microcredit in Argentina**

**By: Ronald Ahnen**

Journal of  
Latin American  
Geography

Volume 16 Number 2 July 2017



**Journal of Latin American Geography**

**Volume 16, No. 2 July 2017**

Some of the articles in this issue include:

**Why Do Narcos Invest In Rural Land**

**By: Kendra McSweeney**

**Making Do: The Practice of Imprisonment in Postwar Guatemala**

**By: Kevin Lewis O'Neill**

<http://muse.jhu.edu/issue/36622>

## Current Latin American News

# Mexican lawmaker's solution to rape: Keep them out with chicken wire

By: Deborah Bloom, CNN  
November 2, 2017



**(CNN)** A Mexican politician is being criticized for her tone-deaf approach to tackling sexual assault after she suggested handing out chicken wire to indigenous women as a way to keep out rapists.

Iris Aguirre Borrego, who represents the state of Zacatecas, posted to Facebook a picture of herself standing in front of bundles of chicken wire, which she said she planned to hand out to indigenous communities in northern Mexico.

"In support of our Tepehuano brothers and sisters living in the mountains of Valparaiso, we have granted them fishing wire to keep people from coming in and raping their young girls," Aguirre wrote.

The post provoked an angry response from Mexico and beyond, with many calling it a simplistic response to a problem that needs tougher action nationwide.

"Right, wired netting to avoid abuse and sexual aggression on women, girls and adolescent. Great public political strategy," wrote one sarcastic Twitter user.

An [Amnesty International report](#) in 2012 criticized Mexican authorities for failing to protect women from increasing levels of violence. A [UN report](#) estimates as many as 44 percent of women in Mexico have experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.

Aguirre has since removed her Facebook post, following up with another entry defending her actions.

"I mentioned on my institutional Facebook page that materials were handed out in order to reinforce property protection and personal security in Tepehuana homes in Valparaiso," she wrote. "For me, it is fundamental to allocate economic resources, efforts and materials which allow us to increase safety condition for the Tepehuana community, particularly in matters relating to young girls, teenagers and women."

It's not the first time the legislator has faced criticism. Last year, Aguirre -- a member of the conservative Social Encounter Party -- commented on President Donald Trump's right to deport Mexicans from the United States.



"Mexican migrants are involved in very embarrassing things in the United States. This is why Trump needs to apply anti-immigration policies," she said in the state legislature. "He does it for the good of the people. This is what we should do for the good of the Zacatecanos."

She later walked back those comments in a televised interview, according to local media reports.

# Fire destroys ancient Peruvian mural

By: Spencer Feingold, CNN  
November 13, 2017



COURTESY IGNACIO ALVA

Smoke hangs over the scene of a fire at the Ventarrón archaeological complex in Peru. An ancient mural believed to be the oldest ever discovered in the Americas was destroyed by the blaze.

**(CNN)** A fire destroyed much of an archaeological site in northern Peru including a mural believed to be the oldest discovered in the Americas, site officials said.

The fire broke out Sunday and was reportedly caused by farmers burning sugar cane fields near the ancient site.

The Ventarrón archaeological complex was discovered in 2007 and housed a 4,500-year-old temple with a variety of preserved pottery and art. The mural was carbon dated to 2000 BC -- thousands of years before the Inca civilization.

The site is located in the Lambayeque region, about 475 miles north of Lima.

"We have lost the cradle of our culture," said Ignacio Alva Meneses, director of the Ventarrón Archaeological Project. "Five thousand years of history, the original temple, the origin of the Northern Peru civilization, mural art and the oldest and most complex symbolic meanings destroyed in a few hours."

A collection of human remains excavated at the time of the discovery was also damaged in the fire, according to Peru's state media Andina.

The fire reportedly consumed the roof of the complex, melting plastic covers and engulfing the ancient site in a thick black smoke.

"The losses are irreparable." Director Meneses said.

The Peruvian Ministry of Culture announced an official investigation to determine who was responsible for the fire.